

# Pulman's View from Axminster

Issue 269 Est. 2005

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Property View

Tuesday, December 28th 2010

PHOTO COURTESY OF BEN LEE PHOTOIMAGERY



THE recent snowfall didn't dampen the spirits of these youngsters in Honiton. Catie Lee and Bobbie Hibberd are pictured on a two-man sledge as many people gathered at Roundball Hill and The Glen. More photos inside

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## SHOPS PLOUGH ON

### Local retail firms battle to stay open despite weather

By ANDERS LARSSON  
& BEN MIDDLETON

BUSINESSES across Pulman's Country have battled the elements and many have said they were able to open despite the severe weather experienced across the district in the past few days.

A torrential downpour of snow caused havoc on Monday, December 20th, and roads and rail networks across east Devon were closed or only partially open.

However, business owners say they have been working hard to ensure they could open up shop throughout the wintry weather.

Jeff Abbot, of Abbots DIY in Ottery St Mary and Seaton, said: "We managed to get our first customer in the door at 8am when we had the really bad snow on Monday (December 20th).

"Obviously we haven't had as many people as normal in the shop because a lot of people aren't venturing out in their cars.

"There was quite a few people walking in the streets though and it was a good atmosphere.

"We sell shovels and grit so a few people have been coming in for that. We haven't been too badly affected.

"Our Ottery shop has remained open but unfortunately we had to close our Seaton shop on the Monday and then it was open for reduced hours on Tuesday (December 21st)."

Mark Beckett, of the Honiton Toy Shop, said: "We have managed to stay open throughout the snow, and we were clearing it away when it really came down on Monday.

"On the Monday it was a bit quiet in the morning but then it picked up a bit in the afternoon. Since Tuesday it has started to pick up again."

Marcus Hartnell, of New Look News, Harbour Road, Seaton, said: "We got on reasonably well when the snow came. We stayed open throughout and we were still able to deliver the papers, although only just.

"I was digging out the front of the shop so that customers could get in.

"Our supplies were affected for a while but now everything is operating as normal again and we have managed to get our supplies of bread and milk."

■ TURN to page 3



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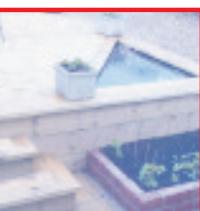
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## Snow slows trading but not for long

### ■ FROM page 1

Mr Hartnell is also the chairman of the Seaton and District Chamber of commerce and added: "As far as I am aware all the main shops in town have been able to open."

Sid Soanes, of Soanes Cycles in Colyton, said his trade had been affected on the Monday but when the snow started to melt the shop had been flat out.

He said: "On the Monday we had one customer and the shop was closed for an hour as we went out sledging. It was so quiet."

"From a business point of view it has slowed things up dramatically."

"But when the snow started to melt on the Tuesday the phone rang non-stop with people asking if they could get in and pick up their bikes."

There was an eerie silence in snow-laden Axminster town centre on Monday morning last week.

Gone 10am, a number of shops and businesses remained closed.

Trinity House, for example, closed early on the previous Friday, traded on the Saturday but was closed on the Monday as the majority of staff couldn't make it in.

The unforeseen closures obviously affected trade but store manager Mark Hankey said Trinity House had nevertheless enjoyed some "good and buoyant" weeks in the run-up to the festive period.

**By ANDERS LARSSON**  
anders@lindlenews.co.uk

A FORMER Hunters Lodge resident and his girlfriend had to settle for two days in Slough instead of 16 days in India because of the recent snow chaos.

Richard Galloway and Leanne Evans were set to fly out for a holiday on Saturday, December 18th — and came agonisingly close.

They had checked in and were 30 minutes from departure when told they wouldn't fly after all that day.

It emerged that their plane wasn't even at Heathrow, but in Brussels.

Leanne said: "When they checked in, the plane wasn't there.

"It was a little bit shambolic and false hope."

Initial indications were that they would fly 24 hours later, but that proved not to be the case.

Richard and Leanne were lucky in the sense that they didn't have to sleep at Heathrow as a friend from Slough put them up for two nights.

The couple made a brief return to Heathrow on the Sunday, only to be given a letter by the airline — Kingfisher — saying flights on the Sunday and Monday had been cancelled.

The advice given was to phone and re-book their tickets.

Everybody else had been given the same advice, so getting through was very difficult.

Eventually, they were offered a flight for December 28th — which they declined as they would have missed too much of their holiday, including a pre-booked tour in India.

After struggling to get back to their home in Exeter, Richard and Leanne returned in the afternoon of Tuesday, December 21st.

Leanne assessed the situation by saying: "We have spent £3,000 in total and got nowhere."

Instead, Richard and Leanne are preparing for a Christmas at home and



◆ RICHARD Galloway and Leanne Evans now plan a Christmas at home after their festive flight to India was cancelled due to the snow chaos

## Couple swap India holiday for Slough after flight stopped

are also pursuing various refund claims.

Richard seemed to take it all in his stride and didn't blame anyone.

He said: "It has certainly been an experience."

"It is disappointing but no-one could foresee what happened."

Richard is a self-employed carpenter who plies much of his trade in the Axminster and Lyme Regis areas.

But Leanne is a teacher, which complicates things as her holidays are governed by the school holidays.

Richard said: "You can't really

change the dates. I'm self-employed and can go when I want, but Leanne can't."

"I could go on my own."

When asked if he would be allowed to go on his own, he laughed and said: "Probably not."

## Thieves fail to open safe

A SAFE was ripped loose when burglars broke in to commercial premises at Trinity Hill Road, Musbury, overnight between Wednesday, December 15th and Thursday, December 16th.

The perpetrators tried to open the safe at the scene, but failed.

Police say £200 in cash were taken and damage in excess of £2,000 was caused.

Anyone with information that could help police is asked to call 08452 777 444 and ask for Axminster police.

The crime reference is KA/10/653.

## Cars collide

TWO cars collided outside the Wheelwright Inn, Colyford, in the afternoon of Friday, December 17th.

The accident happened at about 1.15pm and the fire and rescue service sent appliances from Colyton and Seaton.

A spokesperson said: "One of the cars had three people still inside, not trapped but suffering neck pain."

"Crews assisted with stabilising the casualties whilst awaiting arrival of an ambulance."

## Chimney fire

FIREFIGHTERS from Lyme Regis were called to reports of a chimney on fire at Pinhay Farm.

The incident was reported just after 11am on Wednesday, December 15th.

The fire crew dealt with the fire using chimney gear and a thermal imaging camera to check for hot-spots.

## Waste disruption

EAST Devon District Council (EDDC) waste and recycling services have been disrupted by the snow and icy conditions.

A spokesman for the district council confirmed that a limited service was operating on Wednesday, December 22nd but added that waste and recycled material would only be collected from roads that were free from snow and ice.

The spokesman said: "It is unlikely that the majority of scheduled collections will take place and any catch up collections from the disruption of Friday, December 17th, Monday, December 20th, and Tuesday, December 21st will be restricted to ice and snow free surfaces.

"If your property is on a road on which it is not safe to travel please retain your refuse for the next scheduled collection when we will collect any additional side waste due to us being unable to collect during this difficult period."

EDDC waste and recycling updates will be posted on the district council website at [www.eastdevon.gov.uk](http://www.eastdevon.gov.uk).

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◆ OLLIE Hibberd flies high on a one-man sledge, above. Top right, Gareth Henwood goes downhill skiing. Below right, Rob Bright on his snowboard



## Making the most of the white stuff

THE SNOW that fell across east Devon recently didn't dampen the spirits of these winter sports enthusiasts in Honiton.

With the white stuff covering Roundball Hill and The Glen many people donned their snow gear and made the most of the unusual weather.

Skis, sledges, snowboards and toboggans were out in force as residents from across the town took to the hills.



PHOTO BY BEN MIDDLETON

◆ THIS avid Pulman's View reader was spotted recently in the garden of reporter Ben Middleton. Despite looking a little cold and pale, the stranger soon warmed up when reading this informative local publication — although he hasn't been seen since

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# Primaries in area scoring high league table marks

By BEN MIDDLETON

ben@fimnews.co.uk

**PRIMARY** schools across Pulman's Country have scored well according to the latest set of primary school league tables released by the Department for Education.

The tables were released recently and showed that Pulman's Country primary schools achieved higher than average results in this year's Key Stage 2 tests.

Across England the average percentage of pupils achieving Level 4 or above in both Key Stage 2 English and Maths was 73 per cent.

The top performing schools in the Pulman's View circulation area are Mrs Ethelston's Church of England Primary School in Lyme Regis, Stockland and Kilmington Primary School.

Christine Channon, Devon County Council cabinet member for schools, added: "Devon's schools do well academically despite their poor funding and that is a measure of the quality of teaching and the quality of leadership and governance we have in the county."

above.

Stephen Clarke, headteacher at Stockland, praised the efforts of the whole school and said: "It is good news for us and we are really pleased. We have been one of the top performing schools for four out of the last five years.

"We are consistently outstanding, each year it varies as to which schools are at the top (of the league tables) but we are consistently good.

"Our teachers have been with us for a long time and that has meant we can build up the quality of our teaching."

The top performing schools for value added - the measure of the progress made by pupils between the ages of seven and 11 - are All Saints Church of England Primary School, Stockland and Kilmington Primary School.

One hundred per cent of youngsters at Mrs Ethelston's, Stockland and Upottery, who took the Key Stage 2 test in English and Maths, scored Level 4 or



◆ THE girls from the Confi Dance dance group in Seaton were out and about in Seaton over the festive period singing Christmas carols to shoppers in the town

## DCC asks businesses to complete survey

**DEVON** County Council (DCC) has issued a request to businesses to complete an online survey.

Business representatives in six towns across the county are being asked for their views on the need for managed work space, or work hubs, in each area.

According to the county council work hubs will provide individuals and micro-businesses with office-type services like broadband, IT support and meeting rooms.

An event to promote the idea of work hubs will take place in Axminster at Axe Valley Community College between 1pm

and 7pm on Thursday, January 6th.

Will Mumford, DCC cabinet member for economic regeneration and strategic planning, said: "DCC is keen to support small businesses who may need workspace but we need to find out exactly what help these businesses need.

"I'm really pleased that we've

had such positive feedback from businesses who have attended the events so far, but we want to encourage as many people as possible to give feedback on the need for work space in each town."

To take part in the council's online survey visit [www.devonworkhubs.co.uk](http://www.devonworkhubs.co.uk).

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The festive faces of children across Pulman's Country in their school nativity plays...

# PULMAN'S LITTLE ANGELS



PHOTOS BY COLIN BOWERMAN



♦ TOP left, pupils at All Saints Primary School pictured during their Christmas production The Peace Child. Top right, Colyton Primary School's angels sing a Christmas carol. Left, pupils at Dalwood Primary School put on A Christmas Carol. Right, members of Peniton Primary School's Singing Club perform at Otter Nurseries in Ottery St Mary



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The festive faces of children across Pulman's Country in their school nativity plays...



PHOTOS BY COLIN BOWERMAN

# PULMAN'S LITTLE ANGELS



◆ LEFT, KS1 pupils at Feniton Primary School begin their performance with a display of drumming. Top left, Dunkeswell Pre-school pupils performed their Christmas play, A Wriggly Nativity. Far left, Awliscombe Primary School pupils put on The Very Sleepy Shepherd in the parish church. Top, youngsters from Little Treasures Pre-School in Gittisham put on a nativity play called The Grumpy Sheep to a packed audience of parents and friends in the village hall

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## Kids' party raises £1,541

AN Uplyme party in aid of Devon Air Ambulance Trust has raised a total of £1,541.

The party was held in Uplyme Village Hall and more than 100 children attended.

Becky Coombes, organised the event, and said: "This charity is close to my heart as my daughter became seriously ill two years ago and if it wasn't for the assistance of the Devon Air Ambulance my daughter would not have survived.

"She contracted a strep infection which led to septicaemia causing multiple organ failure. Her life was in the balance and I cannot thank the Devon Air Ambulance Trust enough.

"This charity needs to raise £4million a year to run, it is completely independent of central or local government and does not receive National Lottery funding. It is only through the generosity of their supporters that they are able to raise the £4million they need."

Becky added that she would like to thank all the people who helped out on the day and the companies that donated raffle prizes.

She said: "I can safely say that without the generosity of the companies the raffle would not have been such a success. I would like to thank EDF Energy based in Exeter for allowing me to hold a cake and raffle sale in the lead up to the party and Simon Baulch for designing the raffle tickets.

"To make this such an organised and fun day for all the family, there was a team of over 20 helpers and without them this event would not have been possible. Everyone has been so generous."

## BBC star gets house bids in

**BBC Homes Under the Hammer** star Graham Barton has auctioned off an Axminster property.

The three-bedroomed semi-detached house in Boxfield Road was among a number of properties and land sold through Clive Emson Auctioneers at its first ever West Country East auction, held in Plymouth recently.

The Axminster property is subject to an East Devon District Council housing restriction, which means that the buyer is required to have lived and worked in the district for the last three years.



◆ 15 Boxfield Road, Axminster, has been sold at auction

**NEWSROOM**  
**01297 631120**

**By ANDERS LARSSON**  
anders@lindlenews.co.uk

A COTLEIGH woman turned her back on a business career and opted for humanitarian aid instead.

Pippa Findlay is currently in northern Kenya as part of an internship with British medical aid agency Merlin.

The 24-year-old holds an International Business Studies degree from Loughborough University, but the cut and thrust commercial world failed to impress her.

She said: "I found it hard to be motivated by making money for a huge multinational company.

"I wanted to use my project management and finance skills to make a difference to people who really needed it.

"I had previously spent three months volunteering in a school in Malawi and this first-hand experience inspired me to pursue a career in the humanitarian sector."

She works as a programmes assistant on projects that include the training of health workers on the prevention and treatment of malaria and malnutrition.

A Merlin spokesperson explained that around a quarter of a million people in Kenya have been helped by Merlin's projects, including 30,000 malnourished children.

The almost constant drought in northern Kenya is a serious problem, leading to frequent and deadly disease outbreaks, which is why Pippa is also learning about providing healthcare in an emergency.

About her experiences so far, she said: "It was great to get a real insight into the wonderful work that Merlin is doing.

"I visited a health centre that Merlin supports and met frontline staff who educate communities on important issues like reproductive health and hygiene.

"I also heard some tragic stories of mothers and babies dying during childbirth.



◆ PIPPA Findlay, 24, is pictured with members of British medical aid agency Merlin in Kenya

# Kenya calls business woman for aid work

"That's why we put so much effort into encouraging women to give birth in a health centre where a trained birth attendant can save the lives of both mother and baby if complications occur."

Before her spell in Africa, Pippa spent six months at Merlin's head office in London where she worked in the fundraising department.

She has another three months left in Africa and a typical day involves anything from writing reports, ordering vital equipment and gathering data on how the projects are working.

As shops in the UK stocked their shelves with festive decorations and gifts, Pippa was unsure what a Kenyan Christmas will be like.

She said: "When you work with people who hardly have enough money for food, let alone presents, it does make you wonder why we get quite so excited about shopping."

"If any readers felt the same, they could always consider a donation to Merlin.

"Money goes so much further out here and when you see what

marvellous things are done with it, you know it's well spent and worth every penny."

A stethoscope to listen to a foetal heartbeat can be bought for just £5, whilst £66 buys a delivery kit for a trained birth attendant to use.

If you want to donate to Merlin or find out more, visit [www.merlin.org.uk](http://www.merlin.org.uk)



◆ PUPILS at Kilmington Primary School put on a performance of *The Wind in the Willows* in the village hall as their end of year production. Some of the children in the cast are pictured, above. Top left, the ducks and ducklings by the river bank. Left, Mr Toad sets off in his caravan

PHOTO BY COLIN BOWERMAN

## Reach new heights in 2011

With Pulman's View From Series

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## Everything for the weekend



MUSIC

◆ BARE Bones band members, from left, Leon Finbow, Rab Russell, Ben Riggs and Ben Watts

### BARE BONES BAND'S MAIDEN GIG

A FLEDGLING Axminster band has ticked the first box on its 'to do' list.

Bare Bones started life in late August and one aim was to get out and do a gig.

The band consists of Rab Russell (vocals), Ben Watts (bass guitar) Leon Finbow (six-string guitar) and Ben Riggs (drums).

They have all played in different bands, but their maiden gig together was in late November.

Rab explained: "Bare Bones is a band of various musical influences and we play our own type of punk rock.

"We played our first gig on November 27th at Axminster Inn. It was a charity event for the PDSA organised by Axminster Bikes and Trikes — and My Deprivation also played.

"The gig was a success, with money raised and Bare Bones getting a lot of praise and favourable comments."

Drummer Ben Riggs added: "There's nothing like doing it in front of a crowd."

The band is headquartered in the skittle alley at Axminster Inn, where members practice at least once a week.

They hope to take to the stage again soon — and another thing on the to do list is recording.

Rab explained: "We love playing as a band and hope to record in the new year. We play for the joy of music, for other people to enjoy as well as ourselves.

"We feel deeply about punk rock and what it has given us musically as well as personally.

"We hope to gig lots, make music for people for the head and heart, and take it as far as possible."

Anyone interested in booking the band, or finding out more, can contact members through Bare Bones' Facebook page.

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# New Year



## New Challenge for 2011

Feel good for 2011 by getting fit, learn a new skill or take part in a new hobby.

These companies can give you all the advice you need to feel great so don't delay, contact today!



## Slimming world can help discover a new you

Are you thinking of joining a Slimming group after the Christmas and New Year festivities?

Well to save you the trouble of looking around Slimming World have decided to open up our groups the week commencing 20th December for you to come along and join in our Christmas parties and sample some of the warmth and hospitality of our groups as well as some lovely Food Optimising tasters.

We are not asking you to come and join, so no pressure at all. We will also let you know about our fantastic joining offers in January. Please do come along and have a chat and maybe you may decide to join us in the New Year.

Monday 20th - Ottery St Mary Football Club  
- 7.00pm

Tuesday 21st - Honiton Baptist Church, High Street - 7.00pm

Wednesday 22nd - Honiton Baptist Church  
- 9.30 am

Hope you can join us.

For further information call Sharon on 07963337178 or visit [www.slimmingworld.co.uk](http://www.slimmingworld.co.uk).



Dawn pictured on the left before her weight loss at Slimming World.



Pictured after following a successful program Dawn's figure is transformed!



## Clinical Hypnotherapy

### Michelle Hague

BA(Hons) Ed Cert Ed PDC Hyp PDCB Hyp MBSCH

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## Feed your face

What you put in your body is just as important as what you put on it. Boost your skin with the foods that work beauty wonders.

Nutrition is never far from the headlines. From getting your 'five a day' fix to sinking two litres of water, there are enough must-follow commandments to create the nutritional equivalent of the Bible.

While the growing array of superfoods and supplements may help give your skin a boost, it's your daily diet that makes the biggest difference to your overall complexion.

Yep, the foods you throw into your supermarket trolley really can have an effect in the fight against wrinkles, make your hair glossy, and encourage an elusive supermodel glow.

### Diet dramas

Fast food and sweet treats may be moreish but too much of a good thing can result in telltale signs that your diet has taken a nosedive.

Premature ageing of the skin can be related to an excess of sugar and refined foods.

Fiona says: "Poor diet can result in poor skin health, which shows itself through dull, flaky skin and dark circles under the eyes, as well as spot breakouts."

Dehydrated skin lacking in water can quickly look wrinkled and drawn. And it doesn't matter what your skin type is, both dry and oily skin can suffer badly from the dehydration blues.

Sip regularly on fluids throughout the day and treat your skin to SOS hydrating sprays.

ing replenishing ingredients such as super-moisturising Sodium Hyaluronate and Glycerin, a natural humectant.

### Skin savers

Beautify from the inside out. There's no need for complex recipe cards, just sensible eating incorporating specific beauty-boosting foods.

"There are many foods that, if eaten regularly as part of an overall well-balanced diet, will benefit the skin, however some foods are better than others as focusing on these will provide the extra nutrients required to boost your skin health and give you a great complexion," Fiona says.

### Gorge on veg

Eating plenty of vegetables can help you stay healthy and looking healthy.

"Bright orange, red and green-coloured vegetables replenish the nutrients in your body," Fiona explains. "Try including tomatoes, carrots, sweet potatoes and a broccoli in your diet."

Beauty enhancer: Yes! Tomatoes Facial Mask £11.99 ([www.victoriahealth.com](http://www.victoriahealth.com)).

### Eat more fish

"Eating fish is a tasty way to have a light, healthy meal with the added benefit of Omega-3 fatty acids," Fiona reveals.

"Try adding some salmon, trout, tuna, mackerel, sardines or herrings into your diet."

Brew a cuppa

"Sit down and have a nice cup of tea," Fiona suggests.

"It will help to keep you hydrated and cool towards your eight glasses of water a day."



## Reach new heights in 2011

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# New Year - New You? It's Time for Change

If like many, you or someone you know has had a bad year in 2010, then maybe it's time for you to do something nice for yourself or show this advert to the person you think it may help.

If you have been unwell, or have felt the stress of the season now passed, then give yourself a gift.

Learn how to do something wonderful for yourself that you can use again and again.

Learn how to unwind to de stress and to enjoy life again.

Give yourself a gift, the gift of "the present".

Michelle Hague is an experienced professional Clinical Hypnotherapist and Cognitive Behavioural Hypnotherapist.

Hypnotherapist and Cognitive Behavioural Hypnotherapist and an International Lecturer with the London College of Clinical Hypnosis.

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Be the person you want to be, shine with confidence and energy, focus on what is important to you.

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Michelle Hague is an experienced professional Clinical Hypnotherapist and Cognitive Behavioural Hypnotherapist.

## New Challenge for 2011?

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- Axminster outdoor bowls



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## Two celebrities reveal their tips on the fashion and beauty front for 2011

Seek inspiration for your own New Year style resolution

By Lisa Haynes  
New Year resolutions are never exactly a revelation. Quit alcohol, smoking or takeaways and take up the gym... the more cliched ones are usually the hardest to keep.

With the start of a new decade looming, why not maintain a style promise instead?

Whether it's vowing to religiously remove your make-up before bed or inject more colour into your wardrobe, an achievable resolution to make you look and feel better should spell the start of a gorgeous 2011.

Anti-ageing expert Nicky Hambleton-Jones agrees: "I am not a believer in 'big' New Year's resolutions, it can be a pressure cooker striving to achieve life-changing goals like getting a new job, or losing a lot of weight - all within just one year!" So ditch the over-ambi-

tious resolutions you'll forget after January 5th and kick off 2011 with a non-taxing fashion or beauty intention.

Our celebrities unveil their style-led vows.

Coleen Rooney, designer for Littlewoods

"My style resolution is to pick out my outfit the night before. With my own range from Littlewoods coming out in January and (son) Kai keeping me busier than ever, this will certainly make the mornings easier."

Cat Deeley, face of Pantene Pro-V Aqua Light

"Less is more. If I don't have to wear make-up, I don't. If there's no real reason to have my hair 'done', I leave it. I think if you look after yourself on a regular basis and do the prep before hand, you don't need to put lots of effort into looking good."



TV presenter and former model Cat Deeley.

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◆ JACK Black as Lemuel Gulliver

## GULLIVER'S TRAVELS

### FILM

THE subtle, underlying themes of Jonathan Swift's classic novel are almost completely lost on this contemporary adaptation of Gulliver's Travels.

However, it's hard for Rob Letterman's film to tread lightly with comic dynamo Jack Black in the title role.

The actor bulldozes through every scene like a child, who has been gorging on sweets and needs to burn off pent-up energy before he combusts.

It comes as no surprise when the Lilliputian court goes up in flames that this Gulliver chooses to extinguish the inferno by emptying the contents of an extremely full bladder.

And when it comes to defeating the Blefuscudian armada, the hero's generously proportioned belly provides the perfect protection against a barrage of miniature cannonballs.

Were it not for a brief foray into a land of

giants that we assume to be Brobdingnag, Letterman's adventure would be merely Gulliver's Travel.

Unless, of course the title is wishful thinking that this could be the first instalment of a series.

In truth, it's hard to imagine this fantasy taking enough at the box office to warrant a trip to Laputa or the country of the Houyhnhnms.

Lemuel Gulliver (Black) works in the post room of a New York newspaper, where he pines for travel editor Darcy Silverman (Amanda Peet) from afar.

In order to impress the object of his affections, Gulliver blags a travel assignment to the Bermuda Triangle. Heading out to sea on his boat Notforsail, Gulliver is swept into a massive, swirling column of water and when he regains consciousness, he discovers that he is a giant in the land of Lilliput.

Feared at first by the tiny inhabitants, Gulliver ingratiate himself to King Theodore (Billy Connolly), Queen Isabelle (Catherine Tate) and their daughter Princess Mary (Emily Blunt).

Enough with the Star Wars gags already.

"I'm from the island of Manhattan between the islands of Staten and Long," explains Gulliver, pretending that he is known as President The Awesome back in New York, serving his people alongside Vice President Yoda.

Mary is betrothed to dull, blustering General Edward (Chris O'Dowd).

She much prefers lowly Horatio (Jason Segel) but Lilliputian law dictates that only someone who commits a truly heroic deed can ask for the princess's hand in marriage.

Gulliver's Travels is bombastic and garish, broadly exploring the corruption of a humble man before gifting him a chance at redemption.

Black can barely keep a straight face as he gambols from one digital effects sequence to the next.

The romantic subplot with Darcy is laughable, and not in a good way, but Segel is endearing as a commoner hoping to love above his station and Blunt, Connolly and Tate have fun with their plummy royals, who naively accept Gulliver's tall tales.

Enough with the Star Wars gags already.

**Pulman's**

With Nigel Speller

View from  
the churches



A NEW Nativity adaptation shown on TV just before Christmas was very faithful to the Bible, while infusing the events with fresh realism.

Produced by Tony Jordan, scriptwriter behind Life on Mars, Hustle and many EastEnders scenes, the 30-minute episodes on BBC One were shown at prime-time over four evenings.

The plot focused on the love between Mary and Joseph. Jordan said: "By the end of the process I am now in a position where I actually think it is true and I think that it happened more or less as I have portrayed it."

The series ran from Monday, December 20th to Thursday, December 23rd at 7pm.

The Church and Media Network has created a website with more information available at [www.nativitydrama.info](http://www.nativitydrama.info).

A Christmas advertising campaign

featuring a baby scan of Jesus has been running at bus stops and on billboards across the country, backed up with radio slots.

The poster shows Jesus in the womb with a halo and says: "He's on His way: Christmas starts with Christ."

The creators of the campaign, interdenominational charity Churchads.net — formerly Churches Advertising Network — say the posters "communicate the unique combination of humanity and divinity that Jesus represents".

Commercials are also being run on national radio and some local stations. Churches have also been purchasing invitations and posters from [www.cpo-online.org.uk](http://www.cpo-online.org.uk).

Christmas.org.uk also provides a one-stop guide to a raft of Christmas initiatives and events, including details of the Nativity story on Twitter, the Paperless Christmas videos and Bible Society Christmas Unwrapped video.

Locally in east Devon our churches largely kept to their plans for Christmas worship but the weather conditions made it necessary to cancel certain services and modify others especially in the more remote areas. And many more came by foot rather than drive.

In the few days before Christmas we heard again from our Companion Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf that the Chaplaincy at Baghdad was under further pressures.

Canon Andrew White, Chaplain at St George's reported that of a potential membership of 4,000, they had lost some 500 people as casualties in recent weeks. He asked for prayers for the families who suffered, and reported that further protection against attacks was being provided at their church building, but he regretted the fortress nature of this, which could well deter individuals seeking help from the church in future.

## cinema

From Friday,  
December 31st until  
Thursday, January  
6th

**REGENT, LYME REGIS**

**MEGAMIND (PG)**  
Fri - Tue: 2.50

**CHRONICLES OF NARNIA:  
THE VOYAGE OF THE DAWN  
TREADER (PG)**  
Fri - Wed: 5.05

**George Clooney:  
THE AMERICAN (15)**  
Daily: (Exc. Fri) 7.30  
Wed: 2.40 & 7.30

**RADWAY, SIDMOUTH**

**MEGAMIND:3-D (PG)**  
Fri - Tue: 2.40

**CHRONICLES OF NARNIA:  
THE VOYAGE OF THE DAWN  
TREADER:3-D (PG)**  
Fri - Wed: 5.00

**Mike Leigh's: ANOTHER  
YEAR (12A)**  
Daily: (Exc. Fri) 7.30  
Wed: 2.10 & 7.30

**SAVOY, EXMOUTH**

**TRON: LEGACY:3-D (PG)**  
Fri 31st: 3.25  
Sat-Thurs: 3.25, 8.20

**GULLIVERS TRAVELS (PG)**  
Fri 31st: 1.10 3-D, 3.50 2-D,  
6.15 3-D  
Sat-Thur: 1.10 3-D, 3.50 2-D,  
6.15 3-D, 8.40 2-D

**LITTLE FOCKERS (12A)**  
Fri 31st: 2.50, 5.10  
Sat-Thur: 2.50, 5.10, 8.00

**CHRONICLES OF NARNIA:  
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## DIARY DATES

**Friday, December 31st**

**CREWKERNE:** Abba Tribute at Crewkerne Sports Club. 8pm til late. Tickets obtainable from James Hardware 01460 73133.

**Monday, January 10th**

**AXMINSTER:** Axminster and District Seniors Forum at 2pm in the Senior Citizens Centre, Church Street.

**Tuesday, January 11th**

**AXMINSTER:** Memory Cafe 2pm to 4pm at the Senior Citizens Centre in Church Street.

**Saturday, January 15th**

**WELLINGTON:** Mid-Winter Walk with Blackdown Hills Walking Group. Meet at Wellington Monument car park. Walk begins at 10.30am and will be about eight miles. Bring a picnic. Walk organised by Allen Holway 01823 681522.

**Wednesday, January 19th**

**UFFCULME:** Winter Quiz organised by friends of Coldharbour Mill top be held in Uffculme Village Hall starting at 7.30pm. Admission £6

**AXMINSTER:** Axminster and District Horticultural Society meeting at 7.30pm in the United Reformed Church Hall, Chard Street. The talk by Anne Mossop is entitled Wall of China.

# Axminster Carpets

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**Sale Price £60**

Woven Axminster  
Small Pattern in Beige  
4.57m x 2.65m  
Heavy Domestic 100% Wool

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100% Wool

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Heavy Domestic  
100% Wool

**Sale Price £60**

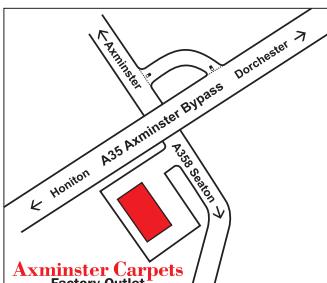
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# country scene

## Quiz to test *Pulman's View* readers' country knowledge

NOW the Christmas festivities are over and a new year is poised on the starting-block, here's a light-hearted quiz to test your knowledge of country affairs and wildlife.

There are no prizes but if you score over 75 per cent you can award yourself a large whisky or a mug of Horlicks!

1. Who killed Cock Robin?
2. Which member of the thrush family is also known as a felt?
3. What is an ammonite?
4. How many species of deer are found in Britain?
5. What is a serotine?
6. Name our one legless lizard.
7. What is fly agaric?
8. Name the once extinct butterfly now successfully reintroduced to Somerset.
9. Where were sika deer first introduced to the UK?
10. What is the small white heron which has recently colonised southern Britain?
11. Which type of swan is found at Abbotsbury?
12. Which large mammal, extinct in the 17th century, has been successfully re-introduced to Britain?
13. Who wrote The French

Written by country-side correspondent  
TONY JACKSON



## Answers

14. Who landed at Lyme Regis on the sands at the back of the Cobb in 1685 with an armed force?
15. Name the 47 acre Bronze Age fort south of Dorchester.
16. What is a Miller's Thumb or gurnard?
17. Which hawkmoth has a skull and crossbones on its thorax?
18. What is the name of the brightest star in the sky?
19. Which is the rarest British snake?
20. What is the devil's coach horse?
21. Which is Britain's largest wild mammal?
22. Which is Britain's smallest mammal.
23. Which is the most common shrub in planted hedgerows?
24. For what was Capability Brown renowned?
25. What is an Italian spinone?
26. Who wrote the comic hunting novel Handley Cross?
27. Which British deer lacks antlers in both sexes?
28. What do the initials A, V and D C S stand for?
29. How long is the gestation period for a bitch?
30. Which is the largest wasp?

To contact Tony Jackson, write to: *Pulman's View*, from, South Street, Axminster, Devon EX13 5AD or email [jackson@fiscali.co.uk](mailto:jackson@fiscali.co.uk)



◆ COLYTON Primary School held a Christmas fair in the Feoffees Hall over the festive period. Above, some youngsters meet Father Christmas in his grotto at the fair. Special guest Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall was busy signing copies of his books, right



## A humorous Nativity tale

DESPITE the heavy snow fall in the days leading up to the event, the Nativity Service at Kilmington Baptist Church went ahead as planned.

The service took place on Sunday, December 19th.

Pastor Darrell Holmes, of Kilmington Baptist Church, said: "The young people and children of the church had prepared and rehearsed their lines and costumes and nothing would stop them."

"The cast of 12 delivered an excellent Nativity story with a humorous twist for the congregation that had also braved the winter weather to make it to Kilmington Village Hall."

"The service was rounded off with some welcome refreshments and drinks."

## Crews attend chimney fire

FIREFIGHTERS from Colyton were called to deal with reports of a chimney fire in the Coly Vale area of the town.

The incident took place on Tuesday, December 21st, just after 11.30pm.

One crew from the Colyton station attended and used chimney gear to extinguish the fire and make the area safe.

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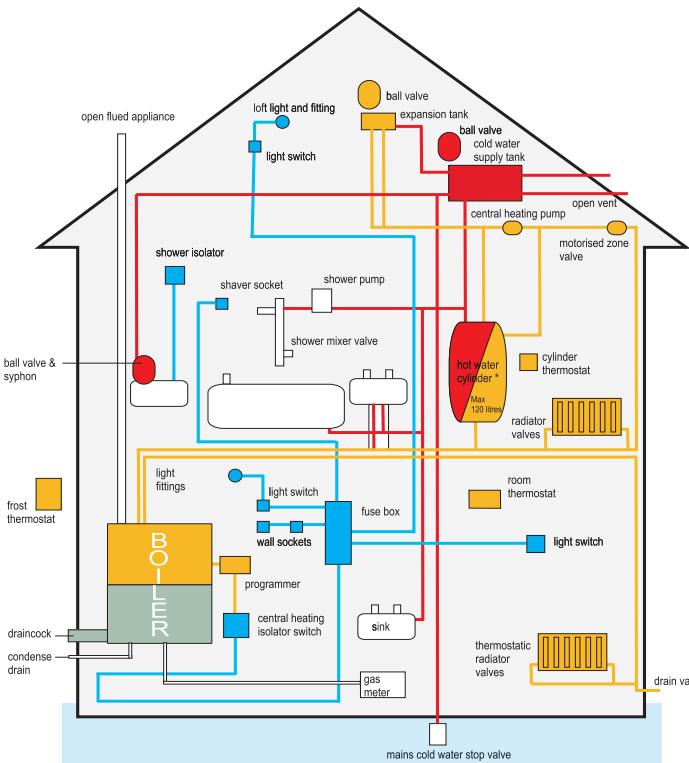
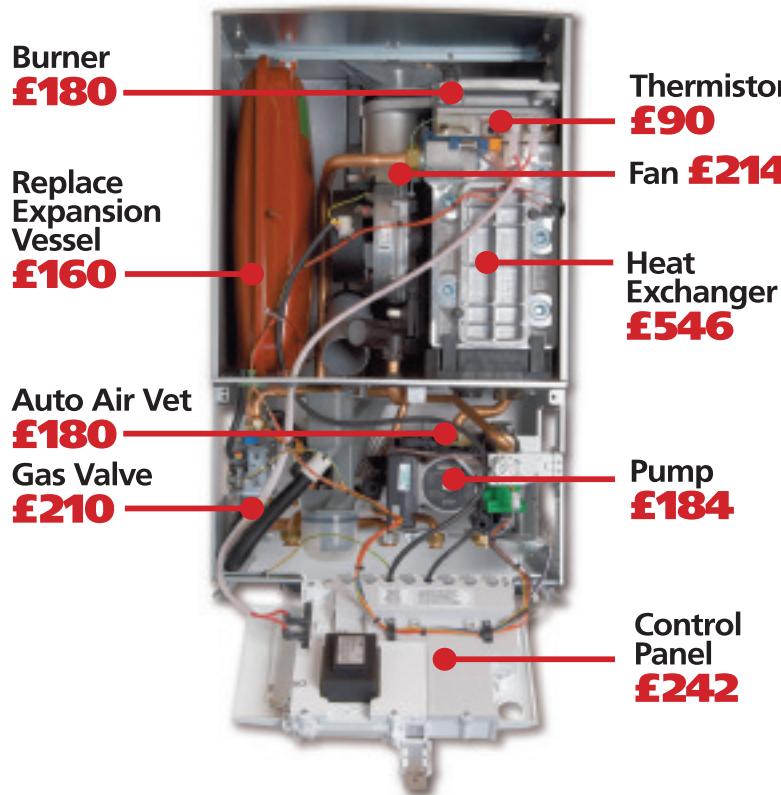
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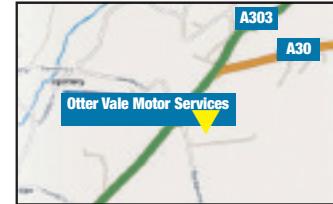
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If manager Josh Stunell's side can continue their amazing run of nine successive victories — they haven't

lost since the opening day reverse at Thorverton — then they will open the gap at the top to six points with two games on hand over St Martins.

Stunell knows that would turn up the pressure on their rivals and would keep them in pole position to complete a remarkable achievement of back-to-back title victories having only returned to the Premier Division this season.

Of course lose and the race is wide open again with everything to play for.

"We are in good form at the moment but we know that we still have some of the better teams to play like St Martins and Sidmouth and they are not going to be easy," said Stunell.

"But as we end the year in top spot the pressure is on the other sides to

come and attack us and try to beat us. If we continue to win our games and pick up points away then we are not going to be far away.

"The pressure is on the other sides to start beating us."

Stunell's confidence in his team is understandable. While the average age is only about 21 they end the year having never tasted defeat at their Colyford Road ground and in 2010 they only lost four matches.

Not surprisingly that has bred a strong team spirit and a self belief that means Seaton Town never know when they are beaten.

"The majority of our lads are still very young but they have been together for a long time now and they have a fantastic winning mentality," added Stunell.

"Of course there is a different pressure on them now being top but they had last season in Division One so they are used to it.

"But we take nothing for granted because I firmly believe that every team in this league is capable of beating each other and that goes from top to bottom.

"It won't be easy to stay top because we are there to be shot at but from where we are now we have to be looking at finishing in the top three. If we don't do that now then we will have under-achieved.

"Whether we can win it, I don't know. But if we keep everyone available, avoid injuries and keep performing week in and week out then we have as good a chance as anyone."

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